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Did You Know?

It's Hispanic/Latina/o/x Heritage Month!

Let's celebrate the many histories and contributions of Hispanic, Latinx-Americans, and Afro-Latinx heritage and culture.

GEAR UP UPDATES

- **Happy [National GEAR UP Week](#)!** National GEAR UP Week is an opportunity for you to raise awareness in your community about the positive impact GEAR UP is having locally. Find resources to help you plan activities. **Download the [Washington State GEAR UP Week Proclamation 2016](#).**
- **Now Open! [Washington State GEAR UP Champion Awards](#)!** Encourage students to apply! Nominate an educator! Winners receive a free trip to NCCEP in San Francisco this summer.
- **Missed the Webinars? View Recordings:** [College Goal Washington Site Lead Training](#) and [College Application Campaign Site Lead Training](#).
- **FYI: [GEAR UP West Conference](#).** Don't forget to register and reserve your hotel room. The [Red Lion at the Park](#) will honor the conference rate. Call 1-800-RED-LION and identify yourself as a GEAR UP West attendee. All reservations must be guaranteed and accompanied by a first night room deposit or guaranteed with a major credit card.

OPTIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Webinar: [Hidden in Plain Sight: Homeless Students in America's Public Schools](#).** Learn more about the current state of homeless students and how the new ESSA guidelines that will require districts – for the first time – to report high school grad rates for homeless students. **Sept. 22, 11 AM.**
- **Webinar: [FAFSA Demo Line-by-Line](#).** The Office of Federal Student Aid will walk through the FAFSA line-by-line for educators. September 27, 2:00 pm
- **Save the Date: [2016 Washington Financial Aid Association \(WFAA\) Conference](#).** With all the coming changes in financial aid, you won't want to miss this opportunity. Oct. 12-14, Spokane.
- **Save the Date: [5th Annual Beyond HB 1079 Conference](#).** Open to undocumented HS/college students, family members, educators, and community members/advocates. UW Seattle, Oct. 15.
- **Save the Date: [OSPI Fall Regional Workshops for School Counselors](#).** For high school counselors, dual credit program leaders and principals with focus on balancing information and activity-based learning. Olympia-Oct. 12, Spokane, Oct. 13, Renton-Oct. 17, & Yakima- Oct. 21.

RESOURCES

- **WAGU Featured Resource: [Family Newsletters](#).** Monthly family newsletter templates with college readiness and financial aid information for grades 7 through 12. Just add your school logo, events and contact information to customize for your school! **Download October.**

7th Grade	8th Grade	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
College Bound Scholarship	Create a High School and Beyond Plan	9th Grade Matters	Study Habits and Test Prep	College Admission Requirements	Senior Year: Get Organized

- **[7 Myths About the 2017–18 FAFSA Debunked](#).** Make sure you have your facts straight.

- [**Khan Academy Free Mobile Apps**](#). Updated with more than 40,000 interactive exercises. Study anytime, anywhere. Get the apps now: [Android](#) or [iPhone/iPad](#).
- [**America's College Promise Playbook**](#). This comprehensive and up-to-date resource guide from ED provides relevant and actionable information about how to offer more students access to an affordable, high-quality education.
- [**NCAN's One-Stop Shop for FAFSA Resources**](#). Find resources on Early FAFSA, PPY, the FSA ID, etc. Find more resources and information on the forthcoming website of their new national FAFSA completion campaign [Form Your Future](#), launching Sept. 30.
- [**Tribal Colleges Listing**](#). Looking for a college or university with other Native students? Check out one of the 35 Tribal colleges with more than 17,000 Native students!

RESEARCH

- [**How High Schools And Colleges Can Team Up To Use Data And Increase Student Success**](#). The report argues that data can be the connecting element between high schools and colleges, and encourages the institutions to share responsibility for improving college completion rates.
- [**The New Reality for College Students**](#). Earning a bachelor's degree takes 5 to 6 years and students attend multiple institutions.

IN THE NEWS

Please send any media coverage to Katherine at katherinek@wsac.wa.gov. We want to feature you here and in our newsroom: <http://gearup.wa.gov/news>.

- [**Why Every College Student With Invisible Disabilities Needs These 6 Words**](#). Here are six words that may come in handy as you make this transition to your first year of college.
- [**What This High School Counselor Wants Parents To Know**](#). Key pieces of advice to help parents navigate the tricky landscape of adolescence — advice that can be put into action today.
- [**The Hidden Epidemic of Teen Hunger**](#). Food insecurity has become normalized among American adolescents—who are also particularly vulnerable to its risks.
- [**A New Way To Honor High Schools, Without Looking At Test Scores**](#). The Schools of Opportunity is a project launched by educators who wanted to highlight public high schools that actively seek to close opportunity gaps through 11 research-proven practices and not test scores.
- [**I Wanted To Live With My Uncle. I Was Sent To A Group Home Instead**](#). The foster care system makes it too hard for kids to stay with their families.
- [**Rethinking College Series**](#). PBS Newshour profiled cutting-edge programs designed to bring non-traditional students the higher education they need to compete in the global marketplace.
- [**Some Colleges Can Discriminate Against LGBT Students**](#). Here's how to check if your top choice does.
- [**Investing in Pacific Islander Student Success**](#). Only 18% of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) adults age 25 or older hold a college degree (a rate identical to African-Americans).

SCHOLARSHIPS & OPPORTUNITIES

- [**Academic Acceleration Grant**](#). Grants available to develop new capacity for dual credit courses. iGrant application #661. **Due Sept. 30.**
- [**Hispanic Heritage Youth Awards**](#). For HS seniors who identify as Hispanic/Latinx. Min. 3.0 GPA. Must be a US Citizen/Permanent Resident/ qualify under DACA. \$1,000 to \$3,000. Due 10/2.

TITLE	DESCRIPTION	DUE
QuestBridge National College Match	Online platform that helps outstanding low-income HS seniors gain admission and full 4-year scholarships to some of the nation's most selective colleges.	9/27
Disney Friends for Change Grants	Offers young change-makers \$500 to gather their friends and turn their creative ideas to help their communities into projects. Youth ages 5-18 located in all 50 states and DC are eligible.	9/30

Don't Text and Drive Scholarship	Open to HS students in grades 9-12 and current college or graduate school students. Must complete a short form and share a 140-character statement explaining why they will not text and drive. \$1,000.	9/30
Odenza Marketing Group Scholarship	Must submit 2 small essays, one related to travel, & the other on why they deserve a scholarship. Must be 16-25, w/ 2.5 GPA or greater. US citizenship required. \$500.	9/30
Scholarship Poetry Contest	Open to all U.S. HS students. Applicant must submit an original poem with 20 lines or less. Up to \$500.	9/30
Shout It Out Scholarship	Open to students 13 years of age or older who are legal residents of the 50 US or the DC and are currently enrolled (or will enroll no later than the fall of 2021) in an accredited post-secondary institution of higher education. Applicant will need to submit a short response to a given prompt. \$1,500.	9/30
U.S. Bank Scholarship Program	Complete a series of Financial Genius for Life online learning modules for a chance to win \$20,000.	9/30
Courage to Grow Scholarship	\$500 scholarship given monthly for HS juniors or seniors with a 2.5 GPA or better; requires an essay	9/30
Golden Door Scholars Scholarship for Undocumented Students	Funding cover tuition and room & board for a 4-year degree. Get access to internships and other career-building opportunities. Must be eligible for DACA.	10/3
Counselors- WSU Regents Scholarship	All eligible nominees will receive a four-year Regents Program scholarship and have the opportunity to compete for a Distinguished Regents Scholar Award. Student nominees must submit apps by 11/30/16.	10/14
Lexus and Scholastic Launch Contest for Middle and HS Students - Land & Water Challenge	STEM contest for 6-12 grades. This challenge is an educational program and contest designed to inspire and empower students to learn about the environment and take action to improve it. Awardees will receive a total of \$500,000 in grants and scholarships.	10/17
LEAP1% Scholarship Fund	For Latino/a/x students. \$1,000-\$5,000. Must graduate this spring & enroll in college next fall.	10/21
Horatio Alger Scholarship	Provides six \$5,000 scholarships to students who have exhibited integrity and perseverance in overcoming personal adversity and who aspire to pursue higher education.	10/25
Coca-Cola Scholarships	50 four-year \$20,000 scholarships and 200 four-year \$10,000 scholarships. Students are recognized for their capacity to lead and serve, and their commitment to making a significant impact on their schools and communities.	10/31
Washington Women in Need Education Grant for Winter	For WA females age 18 or over who are admitted into or registered at an accredited education institution in Washington state. \$5,000.	10/31
Apply for the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Contest.	Past finalist include Neah Bay HS. Help another Washington school make it all the way to the finals!	10/31
Disney Dreamers Academy Applications.	For young leaders (ages 13- 19) with a winning combination of attributes that reflect strong character, positive attitude, and persistence to take advantage of opportunities.	10/31

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SAVE THE DATES! To view the Calendar of Events for WAGU and also partner events related to access, visit:
<http://www.gearup.wa.gov/calendar>.

- [PNACAC Regional College Fair](#). Oct. 21-22- Seattle, Oct. 25- Spokane, Oct. 23- Portland.
- [Saint Martin's Open House](#). Oct. 2.
- [WSU Fall Preview](#). Oct. 3
- [EWU Fall Information Night: Yakima](#). Oct. 4.
- [Pacific Lutheran University: Fall Preview](#). Oct. 4.



TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE WASHINGTON STATE GEAR UP WEEKLY BULLETIN [CLICK HERE](#)